

Remarks

As stated above, the applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Currently, claims 1-29 are pending in the subject application, of which claims 1, 18, 19 and 25 are independent claims and claims 2-17, 20-24 and 26-29 are dependent claims. Claims 1, 18, 19 and 25 have been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-29, under 35 USC §103(a), based on the combination of the teachings of Larson (U.S. Patent No.: 5,825,854; hereinafter Larson) and Prust (U.S. Patent No.: 6,714,968; hereinafter Prust).

Applicant claims (in currently amended claim 1):

1. (currently amended) A system for management and manipulation of stored files through electronic mail items comprising: a receiving portal for receiving, from a sender, *an electronic mail item including a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification*; a storage device for containing a file corresponding to said file handle; a rights verifier for determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access the stored file corresponding to said file handle; and a command executor which executes said command specification on the file retrieved from said storage device when the sender is verified to have the access rights to the file.

Applicant claims (in currently amended claim 18):

18. (currently amended) A method for the electronic mail based management and manipulation of stored files comprising the steps of: receiving, from a sender, *an electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification*; determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access the stored file corresponding to the file handle; retrieving the file from a storage device corresponding to the file handle; and executing the command specification on the file retrieved from the storage device when the sender is determined to have access rights to the file.

Applicant claims (in currently amended claim 19):

19. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of: receiving, from a sender, ***an electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification***; determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access a file stored on a storage device corresponding to the file handle; retrieving the stored file from the storage device; and executing the command specification on the retrieved file when the sender is determined to have the access rights to said file.

Applicant claims (in currently amended claim 25):

25. (currently amended) A processor and memory configured to perform the steps of: receiving, from a sender, ***an electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification***; determining whether or not the sender has privilege to access a file stored on a storage device corresponding to the file handle; retrieving the stored file from the storage device; and executing the command specification on the retrieved file when the sender is determined to have the access rights to the file.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the combination of the teachings of Larson and Prust fails to disclose a system that includes ***an electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification***, as claimed by applicant's claims 1, 18, 19 and 25. Accordingly, applicant respectfully asserts that the combination of the teachings of Larson and Prust is not a proper basis for a 35 USC §103(a) rejection, as the combination of the teachings of Larson and Prust fails to disclose each and every element of the applicant's claimed invention.

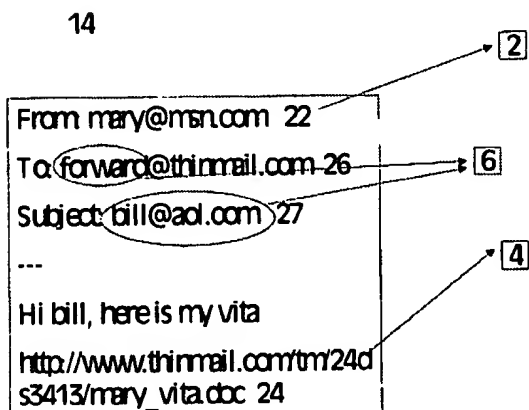
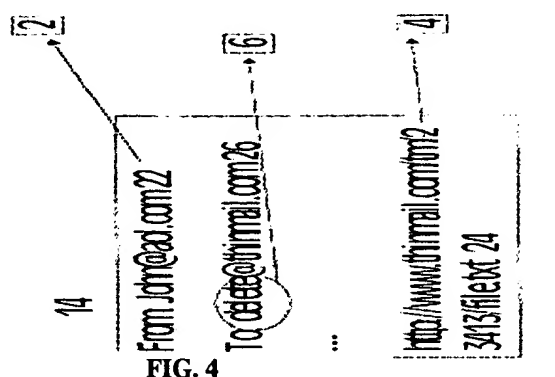
Concerning the electronic mail item and the three fields, applicant disclose:

Receiving portal 12 locates within the ***electronic mail item*** 14 three components to trigger management or manipulation of a stored file 8; user identification 2, file handle 4, and command specification 6. *See the subject application, Paragraph 36; Emphasis Added.*

As discussed in the subject application:

User identification 2 and file handle 4 are submitted to rights verifier 15, which compares the sender with a known list of users, and accesses a table or database which specifies the file handles those users are privileged to access. If rights verifier 15 determines that the user shall have access to the file 8, rights verifier 15 triggers the release of the file corresponding to file handle 4 from storage device 18 to command executor 16. *See the subject application, Paragraph 36.*

Accordingly, as discussed above and as clearly shown in Fig. 4 of the subject



application (embedded above) and FIG. 6 of the subject application (embedded at left), the *email item 14* includes a plurality of fields, such that the fields contain a *user identification 2*, *file handle 4*, and *command specification 6*.

The Examiner asserts that Larson discloses

a system that essentially includes all of the

elements of applicant's claims 1, 18, 19 and 25, and the Examiner states that "Larson does not explicitly disclose wherein the item is in the form of an electronic mail item from a sender".

Specifically, the Larson system is a dial-in telephone system that allows a user to access some of the functionality of a computer system. As will be discussed below, the applicant respectfully asserts that Larson does not disclose a system that essentially includes all of the elements of applicant's claims 1, 18, 19 and 25.

To support a rejection of the applicant's "receiving portal for receiving... *an electronic mail item*", the Examiner relies on Larson to disclose:

FIGS. 2a-c shows an exemplary communication between the user and the computer 12 through the handset 14. As shown in processing block 50, the computer 12 has received an electronic message from computer 20, along with a document that is to be reviewed by the user. In block 52 the user dials a phone number which is received and acknowledged by the computer 12. The computer answers the call and connects to the user. The user then presses the * button and enters a password through the keypad 20 of the handset 14 in processing block 54. The system is typically setup so that the user is allowed n number of chances to enter the correct password. For Example, the user may be given 3 chances to enter the correct password. If the user does not enter the correct password after n chances, the system locks out the user so that they cannot access the computer. *See Larson, Column 3, Line 57 – Column 4, Line 4.*

Accordingly, the “portal” in Larson is a telephone gateway. When accessing the gateway, “[t]he user then presses the * button and enters a password through the keypad 20 of the handset 14 in processing block 54”.

Further, Larson discloses that:

Once the correct password has been entered, the computer provides an audio dialog menu to the user along with instructions on how to select each audio dialog from the menu in block 56. For example, the audio message may state "To review a file press 1, to review your E-mail press 2, . . . ". Each dialog may have a summary to describe the contents of the dialog. For example, the audio message may state "Your E-mail has 5 messages, to review your E-mail message press 2". *See Larson, Column 4, Line 5-13.*

Therefore, “[o]nce the correct password has been entered”, the Larson system presents the user with a plurality of options selectable by the user with a telephone keypad. Therefore, Larson discloses a system in which data is provided sequentially (e.g., the password is provided first, and the audio-based options are provided second, possibly followed by additional options). Conversely, the applicant respectfully asserts that the subject application discloses a system in which all three components (i.e., *user identification 2*, *file handle 4*, and *command specification 6*) are provided to the system contemporaneously.

The subject application is capable of providing contemporaneous data elements (i.e., *user identification 2*, *file handle 4*, and *command specification 6*) to the system due to the data

elements being provided in an email. Quite differently, as the Larson system requires that a user first log into the system with a keypad... then select a general type of operation (e.g., "to review your E-mail press 2") with the keypad... then select a more specific type of operation (e.g., "To save the message press 1, to FAX the message press 2, to reply to the message press 3 . . ."; *See Larson, Column 4, Line 27-29*) with the keypad, the Larson system is incapable of receiving contemporaneous data elements. Further, as the Larson system discloses the use of a keypad, the Larson system actually teaches away from a system that provides contemporaneous data elements to a system.

Additionally, and as discussed above, the Examiner relies on Prust to disclose the use "electronic email" with the Larson system. In support of this assertion, the Examiner relies on Prust to disclose:

Various embodiments have been described of a method and system for a data storage system that provides seamless access to remote virtual data storage areas via a global computer network. Access to the virtual storage area is fully integrated with the operating system executing on the client computer such that the user, or software applications executing on the computer, can seamlessly access the corresponding virtual storage area using standard file management routines provided by the operating system. ***In addition, the invention provides a wide range of other remote access methods to the virtual data storage areas including access via electronic mail.*** This application is intended to cover any adaptation or variation of the present invention. It is intended that this invention be limited only by the claims and equivalents thereof. *See Prust, Column 8, Line 8-22; Emphasis Added.*

Applicant respectfully asserts that the combination of the teachings of Larson and Prust fails to disclose a system that includes ***an electronic mail item which contains a first field which contains a user identification, a second field which contains a file handle and a third field which contains a command specification.*** Additionally, being the Larson system is a telephone based access system and the Prust system allows for more traditional network based access, the

applicant respectfully asserts that Larson and Prust are nonanalogous art. Further, being the Larson system is a telephone based access system and the Prust system allows for more traditional network based access, undue experimentation would be required for the combination of the Larson and Prust system to perform the functionality of the subject application.

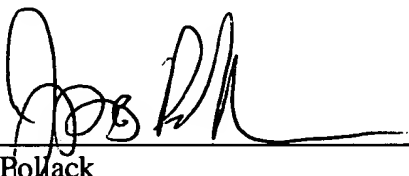
Accordingly, applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 18, 19 and 25 are patentable over the combination of the teachings of Larson and Prust. Further, as dependent claims 2-17, 20-24 and 26-29 all depend (either directly or indirectly) upon a patentable base claim, the applicant respectfully asserts that dependent claims 2-17, 20-24 and 26-29 are also patentable.

Accordingly, in light of the above-described amendments, applicant respectfully asserts that the subject application is in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added by these amendments. While the applicant respectfully asserts that the subject application is now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned (cell 781-266-1400) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

9/15/02

Date



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